



10c

In this issue: DETAILS and ENTRY BLANK for  
**Giant 5000 CONTEST!**

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE



AUTHORITY

# HOUSE of MYSTERY

WHAT'S WRONG  
WITH ME, DOCTOR?  
WHAT DOES THE  
FLUOROSCOPE  
SHOW?



FEATURING  
**"The MAN WHO  
WASN'T HUMAN!"**

Also:

"UNLUCKY  
BIRTHSTONES!"

"The LAUGHING  
GHOST!"

"THING in the  
BLACK BOX!"

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# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



As I moved on, I distinctly overheard the muffled words of the customs men...

In the taxi, later, I recalled similar words spoken by the man who'd sent me to Europe...



THE CRAZY JUNK SOME PEOPLE PICK UP IN EUROPE TO BRING HOME!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!

LITTLE DO THEY KNOW!



IT'S COSTING ME PLENTY TO SEND YOU TO EUROPE TO BUY ANTiques! DON'T COME BACK WITH A LOT OF CRAZY JUNK!

NO, SIR!



BUT ALL I'D BOUGHT WAS ONE OBJECT-- THE THING IN THE BLACK BOX--AND I'D BOUGHT IT FOR MYSELF...

TO MAKE ME THE WEALTHIEST AND MOST POWERFUL MAN WHO'S EVER LIVED!



AFTERWARD, BACK IN MY OLD FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS...

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE PASSING ME BY AND HARDLY NOTICING ME... UNAWARE THAT THEY ARE COMPLETELY UNDER MY POWER!



IT WAS TIME TO TEST THE THING IN THE BLACK BOX...

WHAT SHALL I DO?-- WAIT, I'VE GOT IT!-- JUST THE THING!



I CAREFULLY OPENED THE BOX, JUST A CRACK--FOR A WILD IDEA HAD CROSSED MY MIND...

IT'LL TAKE A VERY LONG SIXTY-- NO, SE-- I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE IT...



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



IT TOOK THE BARREST INSTANT FOR MY WHISPERED COMMAND TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION...



WITHOUT THEIR REALIZING IT, I'VE TURNED THEM ALL UPSIDE DOWN! I COULD DO THE SAME WITH THE WHOLE WORLD IF I WANTED TO!

NOTHING, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE OBJECT IN THE BOX! YET--IF ANYONE SAW IT LONG OR THE GROUND, THEY'D KICK IT AWAY!



I SET THE PEOPLE BACK ON THEIR FEET, AND REELING LIKE A DRUNKEN MAN, CONTINUED MY SCHEME...



CLOSED--TO ANYONE BUT ME!

ONCE AGAIN, I WHISPERED A WORD--AND IN THE NEXT MOMENT...



THESE SCIENTISTS HAVE RECONSTRUCTED DYNOSAUR AND BRONTOSAURUS SKELETONS FROM THE ACTUAL BONES!

AS I MOVED CLOSER TO HEAR WHAT THEY WERE SAYING...

WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO SEE THESE ANIMALS AS THEY REALLY LOOKED WHEN THEY WERE ALIVE, LONG AGO!

ONLY ONE MAN IN THE WORLD CAN DO THAT--ME!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



INDEED, WHAT OTHER MAN COULD REACH INTO THE DUE PAST OF 75 MILLION YEARS AGO, AND...



MAKE THEM LIVE AS THEY LIVED IN THE DAWN OF TIME!

ABRUPTLY, BEFORE OUR VERY EYES...

THE SKELETONS-- THEY'RE CHANGING!

IMPOSSIBLE!



**B**UT I WAS A MAN CAPABLE OF PERFORMING THE IMPOSSIBLE...

HA, HA-- A SINGLE WISH FROM ME AND I COULD BRING BACK EVERY MONSTER THAT EVER LIVED TO OVERLORD THE WORLD!

I WAS SAVING THE WORLD FOR MYSELF FOREVER-- NOT PREHISTORIC ANIMALS-- AND SO, AFTER ANOTHER MISDEEDD COMMAND TO THE OBJECT IN THE BOX, I RESTORED EVERYTHING TO NORMAL...



W-WHERE WE DREAMING?

NO, IT WASN'T A DREAM--BUT A DEMONSTRATION OF THE FAST POWER I HOLD IN MY HANDS!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



MY HEAD STILL SPINNING WITH THE POWER I POSSESSED, I HANDEDER UNLEASHED TO ORISON'S PER, THERE...

I HAD SAID?

YES, CHILDREN, FAR BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE WATER ARE HUNDREDS OF FAMOUS SHIPS THAT HAVE BEEN SUNK! OF COURSE, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE THEM!



ANOTHER UNHAPPY ORDER, AND...

T-TEACHER... ISN'T THAT OLD IRONSIDE?

YES... BUT... IT CAN'T BE!



THINK OF IT... MY HARDEST WORK, AND THE AGE CHANGED WITH THE SUNKEN SHIPS OF A THOUSAND BY-GONE YEARS!

LOOK TEACHER... IT'S THE MONITOR!



AND COLUMBUS' SHIP--THE PINTA!

AND AN ANCIENT ROMAN GALLEY!

SHORTLY AFTER, I RETURNED THE SHIPS TO THEIR COMMON GRAVE, AND CAME TO A DECISION...

BUT THERE WAS ONE MORE THING I HAD TO DO--A JOB TO THE MAN WHO'D WROTE YOUR NAME! YOUR SHIP DOCKED EARLY THE MORNING! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG GETTING HERE? AND MUST YOU BRING BACK?

JUST THIS, MR. KING!

IN THIS LITTLE BLACK BOX YOU MUST BE JOKING!

IT'S TIME I STOPPED PLAYING AROUND--AND STARTED ON MY PROJECT TO MAKE MYSELF THE RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL BEING ON EARTH!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



I GLOATED TO MYSELF AS MR. KING REEDED... AND SUDDENLY, BEFORE I COULD STOP HIM...

BEHOLD THE BLACK BOG!!!

THIS PIECE OF JUNK?... I'VE SEEN THOUSANDS LIKE IT! MY STOCKBOOM IS LOADED WITH BETTER ONES THAN THIS ONE!

YOU THINK SO?

AN EXPENSIVE TRIP TO EUROPE AND THIS IS WHAT YOU BRING BACK! WELL, HERE'S WHAT I THINK OF YOUR ANTIQUE!

NO! NO!



I SMASHED THE SHATTERED CLAY ONTO THE FLOOR, AND STARED AT MY WRECKED DREAMS...

I-I COULD'VE BEEN ASORRY, THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON IN THE WHOLE WORLD... AND YOU'VE RUINED IT ALL!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? HOW COULD THAT THING MAKE YOU POWERFUL?

BECAUSE, YOU FOOL, THAT THING WAS THE ORIGINAL ALADDIN'S LAMP... AND IT WORKED... IT REALLY WORKED!



THE END.



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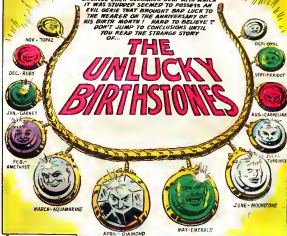


# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



**M**OST PEOPLE BUY BIRTHSTONES FOR GOOD LUCK! BUT HERE WAS A SMILER BRACELET OF 12 BIRTHSTONES. SMILER, BECAUSE EACH GLEAMING GEM WITHIN WHICH IT WAS STUCK SEEMED TO POSSESS AN EVIL GEMIE THAT BROUGHT BAD LUCK TO THE WEARER ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH MONTH! HARD TO BELIEVE? DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS UNTIL YOU READ THE STRANGE STORY OF...

## THE UNLUCKY BIRTHSTONES



IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, A BURGLAR LOOTING A JEWEL SHOP MAKES AN ORIGINAL DISCOVERY...

HA, HA—THIS IS MY BIRTH MONTH—DECEMBER! BUT IF THE JEWELER THINKS I'M SUPERTITIOUS ENOUGH TO LEAVE MY BIRTHSTONE, THE GEM, BEHIND—GUESS WHAT?

WHEW! LATER, IN HIS HASTE TO CROSS THE STREET WHERE A CONSPIRACY WAITS IN A CAR...

BLAST IT—I PREPARED SOME OF THE LUCK! BUT I CAN'T STOP TO PICK IT UP, OR I'LL GET HIT BY THAT CAR!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



**BUT...**



I-I'M SLEEPING ON THE--THE RUBY! MY BIRTHSTONE!

**THEN, AS THE RUBY IS STRUCK DOWN...**

I-I'M FINE! JOE! TAKE WHAT YOU CAN AND BEAT IT!

THIS BRACELET OF BIRTHSTONES! IT'S PROBABLY WORTH A FORTUNE!



DON'T BE A FOOL, JOE! THOSE BIRTHSTONES ARE CURSED! ONE OF THEM WILL GET YOU KICKED YOUR BIRTH MONTH COMES AROUND-- JUST LIKE THE RUBY GOT ME!

ARE YOU KIDDING? I WOULDN'T LEAVE THIS BEHIND FOR ANYTHING!

**LATER, AS THE MAN NAMED JOE ENTERS HIS PLACE OF BUSINESS, A LADY WOKES UP...**



BUTCH WARNED ME THAT CAR WAS A TRICK BEAT FOR JOE! BUT I SHOULD KNOW-- I GOT FUP WITH THIS BRACELET AND I DON'T HAVE TO RUN HIM OUT!



**THEN, FOUR MONTHS LATER...**

**NEXT MOMENT...**

APRIL--MY BIRTH MONTH! IF I WAS SUPERSTITIOUS, I'D FLICK OUT MY BIRTHSTONE, THE DIAMOND, FROM THAT BRACELET SO IT WOULDN'T BRING ME BAD LUCK. BUT I'M NOT SUPERSTITIOUS!

BE--FRO ARE YOU WHAT DO YOU WANT?

BUTCH SAYS YOU CAN HIDE ME OUT FROM THE POLICE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS! HERE'S A NOTE FROM BUTCH!

THIS IS BUTCH'S HANDWRITING, ALRIGHT? I GUESS YOU'RE DICK! FOLLOW ME--I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN TO THE BASEMENT, WHERE YOU'LL HIDE OUT!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



BUT AS THE TWO MEN ENTER THE WAX ROOMS...

JOE--THE POLICE ARE BREAKING IN THE FRONT DOOR!

THEY MUST HAVE  
TRAILED ME HERE!  
QUICK--YOU PROMISED  
TO HIDE ME!

THERE'S NO TIME TO GET YOU  
DOWNSTAIRS TO THE HIDEOUT!  
BUT WAIT, I'VE GOT  
AN IDEA!



HERE--PUT THIS OLD WAX  
HEAD AND UNIFORM ON!  
THEN, ALL YOU'LL HAVE  
TO DO IS STAND STILL  
LIKE ONE OF THOSE WAX  
FIGURES WHEN THE POLICE  
BREAK IN!

A MINUTE LATER...

I GUESS WE WERE  
WRONG IN THINKING  
THAT BOOPLUM  
GOT IN HERE.  
AL?

MMM...  
OUFER SO--  
BUT WAIT?

WAX FIGURES DON'T USUALLY  
PREPARE THE WAY THE  
FIGURES' HANDS ARE! I'VE  
GOT AN IDEA THE MAN WAS  
LOOKING FOR IS BEHIND  
THIS PARTICULAR  
EXHIBIT!



AND JOE KNOWS...

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST--  
AND YOU, TOO, MISTER,  
FOR HIDING THIS  
REIGNER!

YOU WOULD KEEP  
THAT DIAMOND BIRTH-  
STONE, WOULDN'T  
YOU?

WHAT'S THAT  
GOT TO DO  
WITH IT?

DON'T YOU GET IT? YOU WERE  
TRAPPED BY A WAX FIGURE OF  
"DIAMOND" KELLY, ONE OF  
BASEBALL'S GREATEST  
EARLY STARS!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



OUT ON BAIL, THREE LATER,  
THE FIVE AN OLD FRIEND  
SAID: HERE...

I NEED MONEY  
TO PAY MY  
LAWYER, SAID  
WILL YOU GIVE  
ME A THOUSAND  
FOR THIS  
BRACELET OF  
BIRTHSTONE?

A THOUSAND'S  
PRETTY CHEAP  
FOR THESE  
STONES! WHAT'S  
THE CATCH?

I'LL LEVEL WITH YOU,  
SAID - IT MEANS BAD  
LUCK TO KEEP THE  
BIRTHSTONE  
DURING  
YOUR BIRTH  
MONTH!

I WAS BORN IN MARCH  
WHICH WOULD MAKE MY  
BIRTHSTONE THE AQUA-  
MARINE! BUT IT'S  
NOT GIVING UP  
THAT SPARKLE  
FOR AN IDIOT  
SUPERSTITION!



THE NIGHT...

ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING, MR. SAID PLANS THE  
BIGGEST SCAM OF HIS CAREER...

NOW DON'T FORGET-- IF HE FOOL  
MRS. JANSON INTO BELIEVING  
YOU'RE REALLY THE SPIRIT OF HER  
DEAD HUSBAND, SHE'LL PAY US  
PLENTY!



AND YOUR VOICE--  
IT'S EXACTLY  
THE WAY IT  
SOUNDED WHEN  
YOU WERE  
ALIVE!

IT SHOULD! I  
GOT HOLD OF  
A RECORDING OF  
A RADIO SPEECH  
HEER HUSBAND ONCE  
MADE--AND MY  
HIREN ACTOR IS  
IMITATING IT  
PERFECTLY!

BUT REALLY...

HAROLD DEAR-- I HAVE  
MIRACLES! I--I  
MIMIC YOUR DEAR--  
YOU KNOW THE  
ONE I MEAN!

THAT THE  
MEDALIER  
I BEEN TO  
FORGOTTEN  
ABOUT IT!



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



THEN YOU'RE A PEACE! WHO'D WOULD NEVER HAVE PROTECTED THE SEAMAN'S MEDAL HE GOT FOR SAVING A FELLOW OFFICER FROM DROWNING. YOU'LL GET NO MONEY FROM ME, YOU PUNKS!



OUR BIGGEST CHANCE--RUNNED! AND ALL BECAUSE YOU WASTED LUCK HANGING ON TO THAT CURSED AQUAMARINE BIRTHSTONE!

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH--! THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!



NO? LISTEN, SAILOR--WHAT TRAPPER YOU ARE NOT KNOWING ABOUT THE MEDAL HER HUSBAND GOT FROM THE NAVY FOR PULLING AN OFFICER OUT OF THE WATER! TAKE A LOOK!



AQUA STANDS FOR WATER! MARINE STANDS FOR THE NAVY! TOGETHER, THEY SPELL OUT YOUR BIRTHSTONE--**AQUAMARINE!**

YOU'RE RIGHT! I'LL GET OUT OF THAT BRACELET AT ONCE!



THAT SAME NIGHT, AN ARABY SAILOR TOOK THE LOCAL PLAYBOY TO HIS...



I SEE YOU GOT A FINE HOUSE TONIGHT, JOHNSON! BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT DIAMOND-SMUGGLING BRACELET OF YOURS?

DON'T TALK FOOLISH, SWAMI! THIS SNAKE IS JUST A COVER FOR MY REAL BRACELET! NO ONE WOULD EVER THINK OF LOOKING INSIDE THESE MOON HOUSEHOLD FOR DIAMONDS!... BUT WHAT BRINGS YOU AROUND?



LOOK, PAL--I NEED CASH! YOU CAN HAVE THE BRACELET CHEAP! BUT THERE'S ONE THING I'VE GOT TO WARN YOU ABOUT!

GO AHEAD!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



SELL IT BEFORE  
YOUR BIRTH MONTH--  
OR IT'LL BRING  
YOU BAD LUCK!

MY BIRTH MONTH IS JUNE--  
AND THE MOONSTONE ALWAYS  
BRINGS ME GOOD LUCK,  
NOT BAD LUCK! I'LL BUY  
IT, BRAN!

THEN, AS THE JUNE 3RD SHOW COMES TO A CLOSE  
GET YOUR LITTLE MOON  
SOUVENIRS--ONLY A QUARTER!

I'LL TAKE ONE,  
MISTER!



AND LATER...

I--I'M SORRY, BOSS--  
BUT I--I ACCIDENTALLY  
SOLD ONE OF THE MOON  
SOUVENIRS CONTAINING  
A DIAMOND!

YOU CLUMSY FOOL!  
OUR ONE CHANCE IS  
THAT THE FINDER  
DOESN'T DISCOVER  
THE DIAMOND  
INSIDE!

BUT  
THAT  
WAS  
OK...

AND WHEN MY LITTLE  
GIRL TWISTED THE  
SOUVENIR, IT OPENED  
AND THIS DIAMOND  
FELL OUT!

I WISH THERE WERE  
MORE HONEST  
PEOPLE LIKE  
YOU, GIRL! THANK  
YOU!



AND SHORTLY LATER...

YOU'RE  
ALL  
UNDER  
ARREST!

MAYBE I  
SHOULD HAVE  
GOT RID OF  
THAT BRACELET  
OF BIRTHSTONES  
AFTER ALL!

WHY? WHAT'S YOUR  
BIRTHSTONE GOT  
TO DO WITH  
WHAT  
HAPPENED?

MY BIRTHSTONE  
IS A MOONSTONE!  
DO YOU KNOW WHAT  
THOSE LITTLE MOON  
SOUVENIRS ARE  
MADE OF?  
STONES!

I GOT MY  
MOONSTONE,  
AND IT  
BROUGHT  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
CAPTURE!

SOMEWHERE, ON A REMOTE  
HEAP, THROWN AWAY BY THE  
LAST UNLUCKY MAN, IS A  
MOONSTONE BRACELET OF  
BIRTHSTONES...



YOU MIGHT CALL IT A  
LUCKY FIND FOR SOME-  
ONE! OR A VERY UNLUCKY  
FIND! WHAT DO YOU THINK?

END  
OF



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2. YOU MAY ENTER AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WISH, BUT 5 COUPONS MUST ACCOMPANY EACH ENTRY. IT IS DEFINITELY POSSIBLE TO WIN MORE THAN ONE PRIZE.
3. ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED ON ORIGINALITY, AND LEGIBILITY. DUPLICATE PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED IN CASE OF A TIE.
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Winners will be chosen by an impartial panel of judges selected by National Comics Publ., Inc. All selections will be final. Employees and families of National Comics, their distributors, dealers, advertising agencies, and Contest, Inc. are not eligible to enter. This contest is limited to persons living in the United States and its possessions. Complete winners list available on request. This contest is subject to Federal, State and Local regulations pertaining to same. All entries become the property of National Comics Publications, Inc. and may be used by it in any manner. Contest ends Oct. 30, 1964.

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# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



**W**HEN A CERTAIN SMALL ENGLISH VILLAGE  
THERE IS AN ANCIENT CASTLE,  
AND, LIKE MOST CASTLES OF THIS  
SORT, IT BEARS THE USUAL "GHOST"  
LEGENDS. BUT NOBODY BELIEVES  
IN GHOSTS ANY MORE--BECAUSE,  
OF COURSE, THERE'S NO  
SUCH THING! AND THAT'S WHY  
ALAN PETERSON JUST COULDN'T  
POSSIBLY BE RIGHT WITH  
HIS "STRANGE STORY ABOUT..."

## THE LAUGHING GHOST OF WARWICK CASTLE



**IN A TINY HAMLET IN THE PICTURESQUE HIGHLANDS OF ENGLAND...**

SO THAT'S YOUR WARWICK CASTLE, ALAN? POSITIVELY BEAUTIFUL!

YES, HORACE, BUT I DON'T LIVE IN IT AGAIN--AND I ADVISE YOU NOT TO RENT IT!



PLEASE, ALAN--**NOT** THAT TRASH ABOUT GHOSTS AGAIN!

WAIT UNTIL YOU HEAR MY STORY!





## HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"SIX MONTHS AGO I FIGURED I HAD  
A REAL BARGAIN WHEN SOMEONE  
THE RAYING AGENT, SHOWED ME  
HARRICK CASTLE."

IT'S TERRIFIC!  
MR. SMITH,  
I CAN TELL  
YOU RIGHT  
NOW I'LL TAKE  
THE PLACE.  
IT'S PERFECT  
FOR A -  
WINTER!

AND THE PRICE! IT'S  
PRACTICALLY NOTHING!  
WHY, BACK HOME I  
COULD HARDLY RENT A  
TWO-ROOM APARTMENT  
FOR THE SAME PRICE!

THAT'S -- UM --  
BECAUSE OF THE  
LIFETIME  
OF COURSE,  
ABOUT THIS  
PLACE...

SURE—SURE, I  
KNOW! THERE'S  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
A LAUGHING GHOST  
HOWLING THE CASTLE  
AT MIDNIGHT!  
SO NOBODY  
WANTS TO LIVE  
HERE! THAT'S  
A JOKE!

BUT I'LL LET YOU  
IN ON A SECRET!  
AS A WRITER, I  
SOMETIMES TAKE  
A HAND AT GHOST  
STORIES MY-  
SELF! BUT THE  
STORIES *NEVER*  
SELL! KNOW WHY?  
NOBODY ACTUALLY  
*BELIEVES* IN  
GHOSTS  
ANY MORE!

NATURALLY! BE- I'LL  
HELP YOU BRING YOUR  
THINGS IN!

"AND, HORACE, IT STARTS THE FIRST WEEK I WAS TAKEN! AT NIGHT, IN MY STUDY, I ACTUALLY HEARD A MURDERER!"

"BUT IT WASN'T THE WAY IT WAS OLD HANNY'S LAUGHTER... AND AS I LATER REMEMBERED, HE WAS SAYING A WHOLE LOT OF GOOD THINGS ABOUT HIS SUBSTITUTION."

"FIRE, FLOOD, AND WIND? I  
ACTUALLY THOUGHT I HAD  
HEARD THAT ONE IN MY  
LIFE."

НО. НО. НО.  
НА. НА. НА.

THAT  
CAN'T BE  
LAUGHED  
IT'S GOT TO  
BE THE  
HONOR.

2000

YES, NATURALLY...  
THE FIRST OF  
COURSE, I NEVER  
ACTUALLY HEARD  
NO HARD TRAIL SOUND  
BUT... I'D-OR-BETTER  
GET SOME IN FIRST!

DON'T MIMP ME, OL' BOY! I  
WAS JUST REAPING SOME OF  
YOUR SO-CALLED  
RETURNS!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



IMPOSSIBLE! UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE! NOT ONLY DO I THINK I **HEAR** A VOICE... BUT I ACTUALLY AM HAVING DELIRIOUS OF **SEEING** A MAN IN ARMOR!

YES, OL' BOY! AT LAST I'VE PERMITTED YOU TO MAKE VISUAL CONTACT WITH ME! I HAVE REASONS!



THIS CHAIR YOU'VE BEEN SITTING IN IS THE PAPER HARLOCK CHAIR -- AND IT'S THE KEY TO MY ESCAPE FROM THIS CASTLE AND GHOSTTOWN!

DREAMING... THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING! I'M DREAMING! ANY MINUTE NOW I'LL WAKE UP!



ANY PERSON WHO, FOR SEVEN NIGHTS IN A ROW, OCCUPIES THIS CHAIR, BECOMES THE NEW GHOST OF HARLOCK CASTLE. WHILE THE **OLD** GHOST IS AT LIBERTY TO GO FREE!



AND IF YOU DON'T HIND, SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE FOR MORE THAN FOUR CENTURIES -- I'D LIKE TO BE ON MY WAY!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME! I'M **CHANGING**!

"NEXT THING I KNEW, HARLOCK WAS WALKING OUT INTO THE NIGHT!"



WAIT! YOU CAN'T STICK ME HERE AS A **GHOST**!

YES! STUCK YOU ARE, OL' BOY! YOU WON'T WIND IT-- FOR THE FIRST TWO HUNDRED YEARS OR SO...



THAT'S A NICE GHOST STORY YOU'VE WRITTEN, ALAN -- BUT IT'S NOT CON-VINCING! MAY AIN'T YOU STILL THERE AS A GHOST?

I'M COMING TO THAT PRET-- BEAR WITH ME!



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



"FOR MANY NIGHTS, I ROAMED THE CASTLE AS THE GHOST--THEN, ONE NIGHT DURING A STORM, A TRAMP ENTERED, SEEKING SHELTER AND FOOD."

"DIDN'T SEEM TO BE ANYBODY HERE!"

"THAT'S WHAT HE THOUGHT!"

"IN A FLASH, I HAD THE DEER IN THE STUDY SET WITH DELICIOUS FOODS..."

"BY JOVE, THIS IS LIVING!"

"IT IS, MY FRIEND. MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME--AND I HOPE YOU'LL FIND THAT CHAIR VERY COMFORTABLE FOR A FEW MORE NIGHTS!"

"AND EACH NIGHT, FOR SEVEN NIGHTS, THE TRAMP ATE A HEARTY MEAL IN THE STUDY, AND THEN, ON THE SEVENTH NIGHT..."

"DON'T BE TOO ALARMED AT THE TRANSFORMATION TAKING PLACE, MY FRIEND! YOU ARE MERELY BECOMING A GHOST! I'LL EXPLAIN

"AND UPON EXPLAINING THE WARWICK CHAIR TO THE NEW GHOST..."

"WHAT? YOU MEAN YOU DON'T MIND BEING THE GHOST HERE?"

"NOT AT ALL, CHAP! I'VE NEVER HAD SUCH FOOD-- AND SUCH A HOME! I THINK I'LL STAY FOR AWHILE-- SAY, SOME SEVERAL CENTURIES!"

"PLEASE, ALAN! YOU DON'T SUPPOSE ANY SANE PERSON WOULD EVER BELIEVE A SINGLE WORD OF THAT PAINFUL TALE!"

"WAIT, BORACE! LOOK OVER THERE!"

"A KNIGHT IN ARMOR-- OF COURSE HE COULD BE JUST SOME VILLAGER GOING TO A COSTUME BALL--  
**WARWICK!**"

"BUT IF YOU'LL TAKE MY ADVICE, YOU'LL STEER CLEAR OF WARWICK CASTLE--JUST IN CASE THAT TRAMP CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT STAYING!"





# TEACHERS OF SORCERY



**Making All Sorts of Wild Claims, They Run Supernatural Cults  
For Fanatical Followers**

**O**n the evening of February 9th, 1924, in New York's Carnegie Hall, a breathless throng of spectators gaped incredulously at a strange group of entertainers. Seemingly in a trance, these performers were displaying feats of muscular control and coordination that no human ever dreamed possible.

Commanded by a muscular man with shaven head and thick handlebar mustaches, they'd race full speed in all directions, suddenly start reeling like bowling balls, finally to end up "frozen," standing with but one toe or one hand touching the ground. In these unbelievable stances, they could maintain themselves for hours at a time, without so much as blinking an eyelid!

At last came the climax. From the rear of the stage, the actors came full force, at the audience, hurtling out over the orchestra and landing full force in vacant seats or in the aisles, again "freezing" into incredible postures. When, at their director's command, they finally came to their feet, it was obvious that not a single one of them even bruised himself.

Who were these weird, nubile dancers? They were students from the

celebrated Gurdjieff Institute in Fontainebleau, France, and their teacher—the man directing them—was George Gurdjieff, one of the most famous "magicians" of this century. Claiming to have mastered the arts of clairvoyance, mental telepathy and a host of other supernatural powers, this man was supported by a cult that included some of the most famous personalities of his time.

Gurdjieff's training for his disciples was very rigorous. It consisted of intense physical labor, fasting, and elaborate exercises designed to make them subject to his will. In that way, claimed Gurdjieff, they too were entering into the spiritual world, and those seemingly impossible dances they performed on the stage were his proof of this claim. And, of course, they were always ready to read your mind or to communicate with some deceased acquaintance of yours.

Was it really magic? Had Gurdjieff really taught his followers the art of sorcery?

Well, such acts as mind reading, telepathy, and predicting the future had always been regarded as hokum,

so no one gave these tricks any serious consideration. Even Houdini, the greatest performer of all, who lived at the same time, admitted that these were all clever stunts, not really magic. However, that amazing demonstration of muscular control, left quite a few skeptics guessing.

But, once the fascination had worn off, a simple but reasonable explanation was given and the Cult of Gurdjieff at last began to dwindle in size. The human body, it was shown, is capable of the most astounding feats; all you need is the will to learn them. Gurdjieff's pupils had a fanatical will—a desire to practice rhythm, ritual and physical discipline from dawn to dusk. They had to agree to break a lot of old habits and form many new ones. Under such conditions, the successful students eventually could perform those dazzling dances. Gurdjieff, claimed his debunkers, merely added a new twist to an old theory—and this was the explanation finally accepted by most people.

It's hard to believe that any intelligent person still accepts sorcery as a true fact. Yet, Gurdjieff was only one of many cult leaders with wide support. There were others who made equally wild claims, and who had fanatical followers from all walks of life.

For example, had you been traveling through upper New York State, during a summer in the 1920s, you might have seen a man suspending himself with a sling along the cliffsides lining the Hudson River, and pointing, in giant red letters, such messages as "EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IS A STAR" and "DO AS THOU WILT SHALL BE THE WHOLE OF THE LAW!"

This man was Aleister Crowley. He too was the leader of a cult whose

members turned up in every part of the Western world.

Crowley claimed to derive his "powers" from the sun and the planets, whose positions at any given time determined what he was capable of accomplishing or what rites his followers should indulge in. Like Gurdjieff, Crowley also ran a training school—on the island of Sicily—which attracted many a well-known personality.

By the time they completed the course—which also consisted of rigorous physical hardships and denials—they were allegedly able to pull off all the usual "supernatural" stunts, plus some extra added attractions, such as willing events to occur, communicating with animals, and talking to fellow Crowleyites by means of simple grunts and groans. One of Crowley's favorite proofs, for instance, was to sneak up behind a stranger in the street and make a silent motion that would cause the person to topple over without being touched.

And, although this feat ranked one of the oldest stunts in the world—the use of a hired stooge—Crowley successfully used it to increase the size of his cult. Not only that—but in the face of constant denunciations in the British press, the number of his disciples grew for many years. His appeal finally wore off in the early 1930s, after Crowley had gotten into some legal trouble.

There were others, too, such as Pierre Bernard—known as "Oam the Omnipotent"—and Krishnamurti, the Asian youth referred to as the "World-Teacher." Even today, there are so-called magical or supernatural cults with big followings. They come and go, like clothing styles, and will no doubt continue to do so as long as there are gullible people in this world.

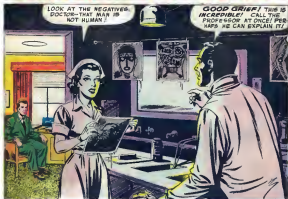


# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



**IT WASN'T POSSIBLE... AND YET WE KNEW THE FLUOROSCOPE PICTURE COULD NOT DECEIVE US! FOR THERE, REVEALED BEFORE AT VERY STEPS, WAS A FANTASTIC REVELATION! AND FATE HAD DIRECTED THAT I SHOULD BE THE FIRST PERSON TO KNOW.**

## THE MAN WHO WASN'T HUMAN



LOOK AT THE NEGATIVE, DOCTOR—THAT MAN IS NOT HUMAN!

GOOD GRIEF! THIS IS INCREDIBLE! CALL THE PROFESSOR AT ONCE! PERHAPS HE CAN EXPLAIN IT!

HE WALKED AMONG US UNNOTICED—AN AVERAGE MAN! BUT ON OCTOBER 1935, FATE PROPELLED HIM INTO OUR HANDS... AND INTO THE GREATEST MYSTERY OF ALL TIME.

THE TRUCK HAD A BLOWOUT—IT'S GOING TO HIT THAT MAN!

LOOK OUT, MISTER!



THE VEHICLE SIDESWIPED THE FACTIN, BUT THE IMPACT HURLED HIM OVER THE CAR.



AN AMBULANCE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE MINUTES LATER—THE INTER-STATE REPORT HAD INSPIRED STARTLING.

WHERE AN 12' MAN A HUNDRED POUNDS FELL, AND HE'S STILL BREATHING! LET'S GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL FAST!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



**AFTER STUDYING THE INCREDIBLE ACCIDENT REPORT, I DECIDED UPON A THOROUGH CHECKUP OF THE PATIENT...**

**WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?**

**I'M DOCTOR PALMER AND I'M PREPARING TO TAKE A FLUOROSCOPE OF YOUR CHEST. I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU ESCAPED DEATH!**

**I'LL LONG REMEMBER THOSE NEXT 40 SECONDS! NURSE BENTON DREW THE CURTAIN CONTAINING THE MACHINE AND TURNED ON, AIR...**

**WHAT'S THAT? AM I... SEEING THINGS...?**

**P-DOCTOR...**

**HE... IT'S NOT HUMAN!**

**AN INTRICATE MECHANICAL FUNCTIONING LIKE A HUMAN BODY! BUT... THIS MUST BE A PRACTICAL JOKE OF SOME KIND! NURSE! PREPARE FOR AN X-RAY IMMEDIATELY!**

**LATER, AS I STUDIED THE SKULL PLATE, THE FRIGHTENING FULL TRUTH WAS REVEALED TO ME...**

**GOOD HEAVENS -- AN INGENUOUSLY CONCEIVED MECHANICAL BRAIN WITH... BUILT-IN VISION AND SPEECH APPARATUS!**

**I'M FRIGHTENED, DOCTOR! FRIGHTENED!**

**THIS IS ENOUGH TO SHAKE ANYONE, NURSE! CALL PROFESSOR YAROK AT THE UNIVERSITY! PERHAPS HE CAN SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS PHENOMENON!**

**YES, SIR...**

**YAROK THOUGHT I WAS BACK HERE I RELATED THE FANTASTIC STORY! BUT AFTER PROLONGED THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE...**

**THE MECHANICS OF THIS, THIS ROBOT ARE ALMOST BEYOND MAN'S COMPREHENSION, DR. PALMER! HAVE YOU QUESTIONED THE...**

**"PATIENT"?**

**NO... I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU TAKE CARE OF THAT MATTER, PROFESSOR!**



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



YARD, WANTED ANSWER.

WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS! WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

**I DO NOT KNOW! I CAN NOT REMEMBER!**

BUT... THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU CAN TELL US! WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

WAIT, PROFESSOR! LOOK CLOSELY AT THIS PART OF HIS BRAIN! BECAUSE! SEE... THAT TINY LUMP JOINT HAS BEEN INJURED...

MOST LIKELY BY THAT ACCIDENT! PROFESSOR! THIS AGENT IS SUFFERING FROM **AMNESIA!**

YES, THAT'S WHY HE CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING! DOCTOR, WE MUST LEARN THE IDENTITY OF THE GENIUS WHO CREATED THIS FANTASTIC THING!

WE MUST REVIVE HIS MEMORY BY RUNNING CERTAIN TESTS-- MAKING HIM RECALL HIS OPERATIONS!

GOOD-- I'LL MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS AND WE'LL KEEP IT TOP SECRET UNTIL HE LEARNS SOMETHING!

**7** **HOW DID THE TESTS ON THE INCREDIBLE AGENT ROBERTO -- AS HE NAMED HIM-- SHOW? FIRST, REEXAMINED HIM TO ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.**

I FEEL NOTHING UNUSUAL. MY HEARING AND SPEECH FUNCTION PROPERLY, GENTLEMEN!

THEN YOU MUST HAVE A THERMOSTAT INSTALLED IN YOUR MECHANISM, ROBERTO.

**8** **FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS, HE RAN OFF REELS OF TAPEL AND FILM HOPEFULLY THAT ONE WOULD REVEAL ROBERTO'S DAMAGED MEMORY CELLS...**

TELL ME, ROBERTO-- DO ANY OF THESE SCENES RECALL ANYTHING FAMILIAR TO YOU?

NOTHING, DOCTOR.



# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



FOR A FULL WEEK EMIL MORAN AND I WATCHED IN UTTER FASCINATION AS HE PUT ROBERTO THROUGH EVERY CONCEIVABLE TEST...

RESPIRATION APPEARS NORMAL... AS WITH ANY OTHER LUNG ANIMAL!

YES, HE CERTAINLY ISN'T A WATER CREATURE! WHERE COULD HE HAVE ORIGINATED?



IN THE DAYS TO FOLLOW, THE MECHANICAL CONTINUANCE BECAME MY "COMMANDER."

TRY TO REST, ROBERTO! SLEEP WILL STOP THE COMPLICATED MACHINERY THAT OPERATES INSIDE OF YOU!

YES, DOCTOR! I WILL CLOSE MY EYES. GOOD NIGHT!



INCREDIBLE! I MUST UTILIZE EVERY MOMENT TO STUDY ROBERTO! SOON, EMIL AND I MUST TURN HIM OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR OBSERVATION! I DARE NOT KEEP THE SECRET MUCH LONGER!



YET, EVEN AS I DESPERATELY STRUGGLE TO SOLVE THE FANTASTICAL MYSTERY, HOW COULD I SUSPECT THE SECRET HE REALLY HELD?

I WILL SUBMIT. MY REPORT I WILL NOT FAIL THE LEADERS.

HE'S TALKING IN HIS SLEEP! PERHAPS FROM THE THOUGHTS OF HIS SUBCONSCIOUS I CAN LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT HIM!



I COULD HARDLY WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT NIGHT, WHEN I INCIDENTALLY RECOVERED HIS WORK...

IF HE FAILS, WE CANNOT RETURN. THAT IS UNDERSTOOD.

FAIL? HE'S BEEN ASSIGNED TO SOME JOB! WHAT CAN HE MEAN BY NOT RETURNING? RETURNING WHERE?



I CANNOT DESCRIBE THE APPREHENSION THAT GRIPPED ME AFTER THAT PRELUDE! I KNEW NOW THAT ROBERTO HAD AN UNKNOWN PURPOSE HERE ON EARTH...

ROBERTO, WHY DO YOU WANT FOOD? YOUR SYSTEM CANNOT DIGEST IT...

I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO THIS! I... I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



FRANTICALLY, I HOPED TO REASON WITH THIS BIZARRE CREATURE... ROBERTO

YES, TRY HARD WITH MYSTIC POWER TO POSSESS TO TELL ME YOUR BACKSTORY. I MUST KNOW WHO YOU ARE. WHY YOU HAVE COME TO BARTON. I CANNOT EXPLAIN. I DO NOT KNOW... I FEEL THERE IS SOMETHING VITAL SOMETHING I AM DESTINED TO DO... BUT I KNOW NOT WHAT.



FILLED WITH ANXIETY, I PRAYED FOR THE PATIENCE TO WAIT OUT THE INCREDIBLE MIDDLE! THEN NEXT MORNING IT HAPPENED.



HE'S GETTING UP

HE'S NOT ASLEEP. CAN THERE BE SOME VITAL MESSAGE BEHIND HIS AWAKENING?



THE GREATEST SHOCK OF MY LIFE CAME WHEN ROBERTO OPENED THE DOOR...



WE ARE PREPARED!

PLAN X-12 IS COMPLETED!

THE PARTIAL DEFENSES ARE TOO WEAK TO STOP US! THEY CAN BE DESTROYED!



AND I HAVE LEARNED THAT OUR RAY WEAPONS CAN DESTROY THE BARTON ATMOSPHERE!

IN UTTER PANIC, I LISTENED...

OUR LEADERS WILL CONTACT US IN THE MESSON BY THE RIVER! IF YOUR OBSERVATIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL ALSO, THE MESSON WILL BE LAUNCHED! WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?



I CANNOT SPEAK NOW... I WILL MEET YOU IN THE MESSON!





# HOUSE OF MYSTERY



**AS THE CREATURES LEFT...**

ROBERTO... NOW I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE! YOU'RE FROM A PLANET THAT INTENDS TO INVADE EARTH... DESTROY LIFE HERE! I'LL HARN OUR ARMED FORCES... WE'LL FIGHT YOUR ARMY!

NO...



IT WOULD BE USELESS! WE POSSESS POWERS THAT YOU COULD NOT REPEAT! I KNOW NOW WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF ME!

ROBERTO... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



**HE WALKED INTO THE NIGHT... AND I FOLLOWED, HELPLESSLY...**

THERE'S NO TIME TO ACT... THE INVASION ARMY DOES SPACE MUST BE WAITING TO STRIKE, AS THE ROBOTS SAID... WHAT CAN I DO?



THEY ARE WAITING ABOVE! WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?

MY REPORT IS, NO!



THE BARTHLINGS HAVE A SECRET REAPPR THAT CAN DESTROY OUR ARMIES THE MOMENT THEY LAND! WE WOULD BE WIRED OUT!

VERY WELL... HAVE YOU RECEIVED OUR DECISION, LEADER?

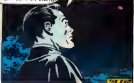


ABRUPTLY, A BRILLIANT RED FLAME SCORCHED THE MEADOW! ROBERTO AND HIS ASSOCIATES VANISHED IN ITS GLOE...



COME, THEY VANISHED... THE THREE OF THEM!

ROBERTO SACRIFICED HIMSELF... TO SAVE THE EARTH... WHEN HE SAID IN HIS SLEEP THAT THEY COULD NOT RETURN IF THIS EFFORT FAILED THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT! MADNESS OR WHATEVER SENT THEM HERE WANTED NO CLUE TO THE PLAN LEFT ON EARTH!



END



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